



Vol. 23, #4

Thursday • February 18, 1999

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## Menominee County receives \$9,000 from national emergency aid fund

By B.Frechette-Kelley  
Menominee Co. Treasurer

Town of Menominee, Menominee County has been chosen to receive \$9,276 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the area.

The selection was made by a National Board that is

chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Council of Jewish Federations, Catholic Charities, USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and United Way of America

which will provide the administrative staff and function as fiscal agent. The Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A Local Board made up of: the Menominee County

Chairman, Treasurer, Tribal Clinic Administration and community members will determine how the funds awarded to the town of Menominee, Menominee County, are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The local board is

responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds, and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local governmental or

**Cont. on pg. 2, please see EMERGENCY**

## Study says Indians twice as likely to be violent crime victims

WASHINGTON (AP) — A first-ever comprehensive look by the Justice Department at crime among American Indians found that native peoples are more than twice as likely to become victims of violent crime as the nation's overall population.

And the study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics also found that 4 percent of Indian adults, or 63,000, were in custody or otherwise involved in the criminal justice system on a typical

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## Menominee middle school holds dedication, flag ceremony



MNN photo/Mike Wilber

The expansion to the Neopit Intermediate School officially opened on Feb. 16. The school will become the permanent middle school next year. Cutting the ribbon are - (l-r) Lori LaTender, 7th grade teacher, student council representatives - Sofie Teller, Tim Waupoose, Michael Waupoose, Alan Waukau, and Ms. Ann Warrington (longest support staff employee) and Steve Thompson (longest teaching staff employee). See story & photos on page 3

## New, re-elected legislative members sworn in



Menominee PR photo/V.deLeon

Lew Boyd (l-r), Wilmer Peters, and Margaret Snow take the oath of office, administered by Chief Justice Robert Kitecon, on Feb. 9 in a ceremony at the Menominee Casino Blackhawk Room. Story & additional photo on page 2.

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## EMERGENCY:

private voluntary organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be nonprofit, 2) have an accounting system and conduct an annual audit, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply. Town of Menominee has distributed the Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with General Relief participating. These agencies were responsible for providing utility assistance.

Please provide us with check stub or verification on income for one month. Also bring along a monthly fuel or utility bill, Further information on the program may be obtained by contacting: Barbara Frechette-Kelley Menominee County Treasurer, PO Box 279, Keshena, WI 54135-0279 or call 799-3315.

## VICTIMS:

day. That was twice the average of the white population, although less than the 10 percent among blacks. Indians suffer 124 violent crimes (murders, assaults, robberies and rapes) for every 100,000 population. That's double the violent crime rate for blacks and 2 1/2 half times the national average of 50.

"People need to know how desperate it is," said Kathleen Bliss, a federal prosecutor in New Mexico. "Violent crime in Indian country is increasing while it goes down nationally."

The murder rate among Indians is no higher than for whites, and only one-fifth as high as among blacks. But Indians are twice as likely as blacks and three times more likely than whites to be victims of rape or aggravated assault.

Family violence overall is no bigger problem among Indians than it is in the rest of the population, but Indian children are more likely to be abused than those of any other ethnic group, the study found. Reports of child abuse and neglect among Indians jumped 18 percent between 1992 and 1995 as the national rate was falling by 8 percent. The study offered no explanation for the increase, but law enforcement officials said it could be due to better reporting.

The study, based on surveys and crime records, couldn't distinguish between Indians who live in cities and those on reservations, nor did it track year-to-year trends in the crime rate. Most of the nation's 2.3 million Indians live on reservations, and many of the rest are concentrated in such urban areas as Denver, Minneapolis and Phoenix. Law enforcement officials believe that crime among Indians has risen in recent years, driven partly by a proliferation of youth gangs.

In 1997, a study by federal law enforcement officials and tribal leaders declared a "public safety crisis" on the nation's reservations and proposed to double the size of their police forces. At the Clinton administration's request, Congress increased spending on Indian law enforcement by more than 80 percent, or \$108 million, to pay for new jails, patrol cars and up to 1,000 additional officers. The administration has asked for an additional \$145 million increase next year.

The 1997 study said there were 1,600 BIA and tribal police officers patrolling 56 million acres of Indian land. That is equivalent to 1.3 officers for every 1,000 residents, compared with 2.9 officers per 1,000 residents in non-Indian rural communities.